

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated May 5, 2005 rejected claims 1, 2 and 7 and objected to claims 3-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2. Therefore claim 3 is allowable. Claims 4-6 depend directly or indirectly on claim 3 and are therefore also allowable.

Claim 2 has also been rewritten in independent form. This claim was rejected in the Final Office Action, but is clearly distinguishable from the cited references, Fossum US Patent No. 6,667,768 and Bailey US Patent No. 6,243,134, for the reasons explained below.

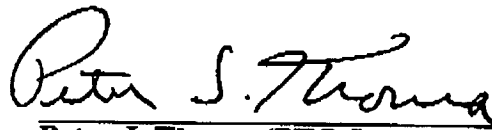
The Final Office Action at page 5 notes that "Fossum is not found to explicitly disclose the third phase as claimed." Then, as a necessary basis for the obviousness rejection of claim 2 citing Fossum in view of Bailey, the Final Office Action asserts that Bailey discloses "a third phase during which said storage means, in a first stage, is released from said initialization voltage, then, in a second stage, is coupled to said photosensor element, thus allowing said coupled signal to be generated and stored in said storage means." This is clearly incorrect.

As Bailey's timing diagram in Figure 4 shows, the photosensor element (PD1) is coupled to the storage means (C1) at time t_1 by turning on transistor M2. Because transistor M1 is also turned on, both the photosensor element and the storage means (at nodes A and B) are initialized by charging them to near the supply voltage V_{cc} . Then, at time t_2 , the storage means (C1) is released from the initialization voltage by de-asserting the RESET signal and turning off transistor M1. These two events in Bailey's operation of its pixel 100 occur in the opposite sequence from the claimed sequence. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn.

Therefore, it is submitted that Claims 2-6 are in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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